

REMARKS

This Amendment After Final is submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed on April 6, 2007.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 29 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Bonnema et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,913,473); rejected claims 18-23, 27-34, and 36-51 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Goddard (U.S. Patent No. 6,126,209) in view of Bonnema et al. and further in view of Fawley et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,632,307); and allowed claims 24, 25, 35, and 52.

As an initial matter, Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that independent claims 24, 25, 35, and 52 are allowed. Although Applicant respectfully traverses the § 102 and § 103 rejections of claims 18-23, 27-34, and 36-51, based on Bonnema et al., Goddard, and Fawley et al., in the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicant has canceled or amended each of the rejected claims to place this application in condition for allowance.

By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 18-19, 22-23, 27-32, 40-42, and 44; amended claims 20-21, 33-34, 36-37, 43, and 45-51, to make them depend from allowed claims 24, 35, and 52; and added new claims 53-57, which depend from allowed claim 25 and correspond respectively to amended claims 20, 21, and 37-39, which now depend from allowed claim 24. Applicant has also made minor amendments to the claims to correct grammatical and typographical informalities without narrowing the literal or equivalent scope of protection afforded by these claims. As a result of this

Amendment After Final, claims 20-21, 24-25, 33-39, 43, and 45-52 are currently pending.

As acknowledged by the Examiner, the prior art does not teach or suggest the corrugated pipe of allowed independent claim 24. Claims 20-21 and 37-39 now depend either directly or indirectly from allowed independent claim 24 and include all of the elements and limitations thereof. Moreover, Applicant has amended dependent claim 21 to clarify the claimed invention without narrowing the literal or equivalent scope of the claim or raising new issues. Accordingly, claims 20-21 and 37-39 are allowable at least due to their dependence from allowed independent claim 24.

As further acknowledged by the Examiner, the prior art does not teach or suggest the corrugated pipe of allowed independent claim 25. Newly added claims 53-57, which correspond respectively to claims 20-21 and 37-39, depend either directly or indirectly from allowed independent claim 25, and include all of the elements and limitations thereof. Accordingly, claims 53-57 are allowable at least due to their dependence from allowed independent claim 25.

The Examiner also acknowledges that the prior art does not teach or suggest the corrugated pipe of allowed independent claim 35. Claims 33-34, 36, and 43, now depend directly from allowed independent claim 35 and include all of the elements and limitations thereof. Accordingly, claims 33-34, 36, and 43 are allowable at least due to their dependence from allowed independent claim 35.

Additionally, the Examiner acknowledges that the prior art does not teach or suggest the reinforcement of allowed independent claim 52. Claims 45-51 now depend either directly or indirectly from allowed independent claim 52 and include all of the

elements and limitations thereof. Moreover, Applicant has amended the preambles of claims 47-51 to render them consistent with that of independent claim 52, as originally intended. Accordingly, claims 45-51 are allowable at least due to their dependence from allowed independent claim 52.

Applicant respectfully requests that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 20-21, 24-25, 33-39, 43, and 45-52 in condition for allowance. Applicant submits that the proposed amendments of claims 20-21, 33-34, 36-37, 43, and 45-51, and the addition of claims 53-57 do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as examined. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully points out that the Final Office Action by the Examiner presented some new arguments as to the application of the art against Applicant's invention. It is respectfully submitted that the entering of the Amendment would allow the Applicant to reply to the final rejections and place the application in condition for allowance.

Finally, Applicant submits that the entry of the Amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

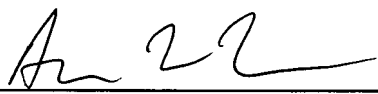
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant submits that this claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicant therefore requests the entry of this

Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should it be necessary to resolve any additional concerns and expedite the issuance of a Notice of Allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at (202) 408-4387.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 1, 2007

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ALP/CKA/ams